

*Serving the more than 6,400 employees and residents on Arsenal Island*

# The Rock



**RIA Firefighters train  
with local departments**

## The Rock

THE ROCK is an unofficial publication for members of the Rock Island Arsenal community. The views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Garrison or the Department of the Army. The editorial content of THE ROCK is the responsibility of the Public Affairs Office, U.S. Army Garrison -- Rock Island Arsenal. Contributions to the ROCK are welcome: Postal address: Garrison Manager, Rock Island Arsenal, RIA-PA, Rock Island, IL 61299-5000. E-mail address: RIA-PA@ria.army.mil. Phone: 309-782-1121. The ROCK is available on-line at the Rock Island website at [www.ria.army.mil](http://www.ria.army.mil).



### Editorial Staff

**Alan G. Wilson**  
Garrison Manager

**Gale L. Smith**  
Public Affairs Officer

**Allen A. Marshall**  
Editor



**On the Cover...RIA Fire Fighter Jeff Moritz gets technical rescue training. See story Page 6. (Courtesy Photo)**

## Senior Mission Commander explains his role in community

This is my first column in "The Rock" as your Installation Commander. I want to take this opportunity to explain my role and my relationship to each of you. To understand my role, you must first understand an historical perspective of the Rock Island Arsenal.

Many changes have occurred on Arsenal Island since my arrival last June. One of the most significant changes affects each of us who work and/or live here. In October, Rock Island Arsenal underwent its most significant mission change since its establishment in 1862.

For 142 years this community has known this 946 acre island as "The Arsenal" with its primary mission as a weapons manufacturing and logistics factory. Over the years, many evolutionary changes occurred as new "tenant" organizations began to call the Arsenal their home. By 2004, the Rock Island Arsenal tenant population far exceeded the smaller, yet critical, manufacturing and logistics mission population.

Traditional Army installation structure provides that the installation be managed with a "garrison" operation for base support services with separate commands and other organizations accomplishing their missions as a "tenant" on the garrison. For example, as an installation, Fort Bragg has a garrison level organization commanded by a Garrison Commander. The senior mission on Fort Bragg is the XVIII Airborne Corps. The Commanding General of the XVIII Corps, as the senior mission commander, also serves as the Installation Commander.

Heretofore, Army Materiel



**Brig. Gen. (P)  
Jerome Johnson**

Command (AMC) organizations did not operate with this exact same structure. The manufacturing and logistics mission and the base support missions operated as one organization, commanded by a Colonel. In some cases, tenant organizations were lead by more senior commanders.

In a brief ceremony held Oct. 1, 2004 in building 90, the base operations portion of Rock Island Arsenal became the U.S. Army Garrison - Rock Island Arsenal (USAG-RIA) and separated from the U.S. Army Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (RIA-JMTC). The garrison became part of the U.S. Army Installation Management Agency, Northwest Region. The JMTC remained a part of the Ground Systems Industrial Enterprise under the Tank-automotive and Armaments Command.

Col. Bruce Elliott commands the RIA-JMTC and his office is located in the building 210 annex. Col. Elliott was the 44th and last Commander of

**Continued on Page 10**

**Correction....In the March edition of The Rock, the new commander of the Naval and Marines Corps Reserve Center was identified incorrectly (misspelled). The new commander is Lt. Cmdr. Scott Svoboda.**

# Leaders should inspire coworkers

Leadership. A subject that some may feel is no more than a “buzz word” for the day. Plenty of people in the public eye have written books about leadership, which I feel conveys how important the skill has become. Also, it is an ability that I feel very passionate about.

Like any good manager should, I have taken many courses and read many books about how to lead people. And, I would encourage anyone to check out any of the hundreds of books about leadership. But, although books can educate, becoming an efficient leader hinges on our actions more than any theory we may have been taught or read about.

When I think of leadership, I don’t conjure up an image of the person sitting at the head of the table. To me, a leader is first and foremost someone who inspires others. So, a hard-working employee at the lowest level can be leading others by doing a great job and inspiring his co-workers to do the same. This reflects back on the old saying of, “lead by example.”



**Alan G. Wilson**  
Garrison Manager

Although inspiring others may not be in the job description of a particular employee, he or she is still acting as a leader. This is why it is important for all of us to recognize our importance as leaders. It is certainly expected of the person sitting at the head of the table. Directors, office chiefs and supervisors should be inspiring their people on a daily basis.

Every employee should be “leading” their daily activities and inspiring others to do their best.

As a manager, I strive to inspire the people who work so diligently for me. I do this by trying to set a good example for others to follow. When your goal is to lead you are hoping that people will follow. It is human nature to follow both good and bad examples. If, for example, I put little emphasis on keeping appointments and deadlines, that example could be followed by those I mean to lead and that could have a domino effect all the way down through the different levels of management. Setting this kind of example will have a detrimental effect throughout an organization.

Inspiring through setting an example is no doubt critical to leadership. But being a good leader is so much more. I like to think that one of my best leadership attributes is my ability to listen. In my experience, ineffective leaders were not ineffective because they lacked talent or self-fortitude. They were ineffective because they had not seemed to master the art of listening to those they lead. As is so often said, a leader is only as good as those he or she leads. A good leader listens intently to what his employees are presenting him. I may know the big picture as a

manager but the only way for me to lead the entire organization is to make sure I take in and process communications from every level. Being a good listener is the only way to accomplish that and it is the one way to effectively lead people.

Good listening skills and the ability to inspire are two aspects I focus on as a leader. However, there is one other I feel needs mentioning, and that is – Courage. The Army recognizes courage as one of its core values and I believe it to be an essential part of leadership. Courage can mean so much. It can be standing up for what you believe. It can mean facing danger as our Soldiers do everyday. But, from a leadership standpoint, I believe courage comes into play when it is time to make decisions. Good leaders gather as much information as they can, then make a decision and stand behind that decision. It takes courage to make a lot of the decisions that our leaders make every day. A good leader needs to be a decision maker and knows that it takes courage to embrace that responsibility.

Those are just a few of what I believe to be important leadership attributes. Listening skills, inspiration, and courage are inside of everyone who works on this Island. I would say that everyone here has some leadership responsibility. You may not be managing an office or directing a section, but your actions have effects on others. Let’s all try to set a good example and help lead our fellow co-workers. Leadership at its core starts from the top, but I hope every employee feels they fill a leadership role.

**SAFETY REMINDER...** Recently, there was a serious accident in Davenport involving a fire engine and a passenger vehicle, seriously injuring the vehicle driver and fire fighters. The Force Protection Directorate would like to remind everyone to apply safe habits while driving on and off the installation. When an emergency vehicle is heard and/or seen, **drivers should carefully pull their vehicle to the right of the road and stop.** If a driver is at an intersection, or stopped in traffic when they see lights or hear a siren, drivers should remain stopped and wait until the emergency vehicles have passed. Do not make quick or erratic maneuvers. The law is very specific; drivers must yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle. Drivers also should stay 500 feet behind emergency vehicles. A crash involving an emergency vehicle delays help to those who need it. Stay safe.





## Memorial Field improvements

On March 14 artillery and rocket launchers from the the Island's museum collection were placed on a continuous concrete pad that was poured at Memorial Field late last fall. New information signs were completed last fall and are being attached to the concrete pad. A sidewalk was also installed. These upgrades were initiated to improve the presentation of this popular island attraction.

Courtesy Photo

## IMA news

### Army Installations to receive higher priority for funding

The Army has begun implementing a new policy that will increase annual funding for installations. Army leaders have set a goal of funding installations at an annual rate of 90 percent of validated requirements for base operations services (BOS) and for sustainment, restoration and modernization (SRM).

The Army will continue to program to the goal of 95 percent for SRM set by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

The new policy will increase funding for installations. The Army Budget Office will distribute the funding in phases through the Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management and the Installation Management Agency.

Funds will come from other parts of the Army's budget as the Army identifies programs lagging in execution during its annual budget review. IMA will program the funds to provide in-

frastructure upgrades and services that have been most lacking during recent months.

The new 90-90 funding renews the Army's commitment to improving the quality of life for our Soldiers and their families. Funding installations to 90 percent of requirements provides a more predictable level of funding that gives garrison commanders/managers more control in managing their communities.

Secretary of the Army Francis J. Harvey has placed well being and quality of life for Soldiers and families as the top priority for the Army, saying, "Soldiers are the centerpiece of our formations so nothing can be more important than a Soldier; nothing can be more important than the family."

"Our installations serve as our flagships of readiness," said Army Chief of Staff General Peter J. Schoomaker. "The environment in which our Soldiers

train, our civilians work, and our families live plays a key role in attracting, recruiting, and retaining the high quality people the Army needs. To enhance combat effectiveness and enrich the workplace setting, we are reinforcing our commitment to our Army family."

"The Army leadership has made an important decision that recognizes the vital role installations play in the Global War on Terrorism," said IMA director Maj. Gen. Ronald L. Johnson. "This is the highest level of funding ever committed to installations, and it recognizes the need to give Soldiers and their families services and facilities equal to the service they give this nation."

IMA planners are working to execute the new funding for maximum impact on the installations. Funding will be released through a phased plan over the balance of this year and through an annual funding program for future years.

**Check out the new U.S. Army Garrison - Rock Island Arsenal website at [www.ria.army.mil](http://www.ria.army.mil)**

**April 2005**

## *Public Works trains Island employees in waste disposal*

by Frances Pearson

**Environmental Office, USAG-RIA Public Works Directorate**

There are a variety of organizations on this installation that produce waste that is regulated by federal laws. In particular, the Rock Island Arsenal Joint Manufacturing and Technology Center (RIA JMTC) is a fully functional manufacturing facility and consequently produces a variety of waste streams.

Waste streams are defined as hazardous and non-hazardous industrial byproducts from production processes. The JMTC generates a number of waste streams on a continuing basis, including items defined as hazardous by federal environmental laws, such as plating shop solids, paint waste, emission control dust and heat treat salts. The JMTC also generates some non-hazardous waste streams including oils, phosphate sludge and cleaners.

Because the installation is a waste generator, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) continually monitors our compliance program to ensure that we manage the waste streams from cradle to grave as specified in the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The regulations are very stringent. The Illinois EPA conducts a mandatory annual inspection to review all of our sites where hazardous waste is placed, all waste recordkeeping, and all cradle to grave documentation.

The JMTC alone generates enough waste to have the installation designated as a Large Quantity Generator. This status requires us to dispose of all wastes generated within a 90 day limit. The clock starts ticking when a waste stream is produced from an operation. The Environmental Office in the Public Works Directorate of the Garrison works closely with the JMTC and all waste generating organizations on island to ensure the installation's compliance with all laws and regulations.

The Environmental Office is also responsible to train all island employees involved with waste streams on how to manage their waste streams from the cradle to the grave within the stringent time periods established by law. The TACOM-RI Maintenance Operations and Procedures Shop and the Defense Automated Printing Service are examples of two such tenants that generate waste. Believe it or not, even the RIA Museum generates waste.

The training is a direct requirement of Title 40 Code of Federal Regulations Part 264.26 – Personnel Training: "Hazardous waste facility personnel must successfully complete a program of classroom instruction or on-the-job training that teaches them to perform their duties in a way that ensures the facility's compliance with the requirements of this part."

The required training includes learning and understanding what hazardous waste is, how it is generated, how to package and prepare it for disposal, where to place it, who to call, and what to do if it spills. Part of the required training includes receiving and reading the Waste Disposal Information Booklet, which is updated in May each year.

The Environmental Office gives the training once a year in May through CCTV and IPTV. Any employee who misses the scheduled training can contact the Environmental Office to borrow the tapes. The office must keep a database with the original signatures of training attendees and the dates they attended for review by the EPA.

If you are involved in waste generation and your supervisor has not contacted you about the training coming up in May, call our office at 782-7907. We also provide individual training year round. The Environmental Office is always available to provide all the help you need get the job done right!

## **ECBC RI to host open house**

Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) Rock Island is proud to announce an open house for their newly established state of the art test facility located in the basement of building 131. The open house will be April 14 from noon to 2 p.m.

ECBC Rock Island is part of the Engineering Directorate of the U.S. Army Research, Development & Engineering Command (RDECOM) located at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. The Rock Island site is responsible for technical, engineering, and quality assurance support to a number of diverse chemical/biological defense commodities from acquisition to demilitarization. The Site Manager is Mr. Larry J. Light.

The ECBC test facility is capable of simulating all forms of air and surface transport through use of three distinctively different vibration systems which include: high frequency vibration table, low frequency vibration table and a multiple axis simulation table. A compression table is also located in this facility. This lab also does prototype, first article, and pre- and post production testing such as recertification inspection and testing of containers used in transport of lethal chemical agents.

Also located within this facility is a quality assurance laboratory to meet all the customers' inspection requirements such as First Article and production inspections along with reverse engineering. The First Article QA measurement equipment includes: two coordinate measuring machines, hardness tester, optical comparator, surface profilometer and various hand tools.

For more information on the open house, contact Paul Carlson at 782-4235 or Bill Meyer at 782-5404.



Courtesy Photo

Six firefighters from the U.S. Army Garrison--Rock Island Arsenal Fire Department joined their counterparts from many of the local fire departments to receive technical rescue training. Arsenal Island hosted the most recent training.

## ***Mutual Aid***

# RIAFD trains with local departments

by Allen Marshall  
Editor

**T**raining is a big part of the life of a firefighter and recently firefighters with the U.S. Army Garrison--Rock Island Arsenal, had the opportunity to join their counterparts in the surrounding communities and take part in Technical Rescue Training.

Firefighters from the USAG-RIA, Rock Island City, Moline, East Moline and the Quad City Airport trained together here Feb. 28 through March 4, learning operations for confined spaces and high angle rescue.

According to Terry McMaster, assistant fire chief, the training follows suit with the departments' mutual aid agreement and shadows the training the departments did with regards to hazardous materials. This particular training is one of seven classes firefighters will attend over

the next few years.

McMaster said the recent training gave instruction on the use of rope during rescue operations. The firefighters learned to utilize rope to raise and lower people through a building.

McMaster said the biggest benefit for those involved in the training is meeting standards.

"This training helps us to adhere to National Fire Protection Association standards as well as OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration) standards," he said. "We need to have a certain number of certified, trained personnel to meet those standards. And, the training was also beneficial for the safety of (a potential) victim and the people doing the evacuation."

The team aspect of the training was also beneficial for all involved. According to McMaster, many area firefighters have some sort of rescue training but this marked a first that the

different fire departments trained as a team. Jeff Moritz, one of the RIA Firefighters who took the training, said working side-by-side with the different city departments was very helpful.

"It give everyone involved a little faith in each other," he said. "We all know that we have the same education."

RIA Firefighter Jeff Masser added: "It's a good thing for all the cities to come together at the Arsenal so that they can see what resources we have and know that they can use those resources."

A total of 29 firefighters attended the recent training and according to McMaster, there are plans to make sure the Island's firefighters get more similar training. Of the six remaining classes, McMaster said some can be hosted by RIA. But others will have to be accomplished at the Illinois Fire Insititute.





## New Tenant

**LTC Doug Cooper (left), AFSC Contracting Officer, John Scotch, Serco Executive Vice President Operations, and Alan Wilson, Garrison Manager, cut the ribbon signifying the grand opening of Serco, a company which has opened up offices on the Island in building 131. Serco is the newest tenant and was brought in as part of the Arsenal Support Program Initiative.**

## Women's Club tour of homes April 30

The Rock Island Arsenal Women's Club is sponsoring a Tour of Homes April 30 from noon to 5 p.m. Nine of the Arsenal's historic homes will be open for viewing.

Tickets are \$20 (no children under 12). Proceeds from the event will benefit the Women's Club's scholarship and welfare funds efforts. Tickets may be purchased by mail at: RIAWC House Tour, c/o 34 East Avenue, Rock Island, Ill. 61201. Tickets may also be purchased the day of the event from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Arsenal Attic, Building 60.

Anyone attending will need current photo identification to gain access to the Island. For more information, e-mail [RIAHomeTours@yahoo.com](mailto:RIAHomeTours@yahoo.com).

## New elevator in use, project on time, budget

**By Allen Marshall  
Editor**

The construction of a new elevator, at first blush, may not seem like big news. But, when this elevator is being installed in a building more than a century old, the significance is substantial.

Engineers from the Garrison's Public Works Directorate and Kone Inc, worked together to replace the elevator in Building 102. The half-million dollar project took nearly six months but on March 2, employees in Building 102 had a modernized, functional elevator.

The existing elevator had been rendered useless after a fire in March of 2002. The old elevator had serviced only the first and second floors but the newly installed lift makes stops at all floors.

The project, according to Gary Cook who is an engineer with PW, was quite involved. Structurally, things had to change to accommodate the new elevator. Trusses had to be taken out so the hoist could reach the third floor. And, since the elevator is hydraulic and has a non-telescoping plunger to raise and lower it, the crews had to drill down into the rock beneath the building a distance in excess of 44 feet.

Cook added that the structural issues were not the only challenge the engineers faced. The old elevator's controls were outdated and the alarm system was useless. So, an entire new fire alarm system was installed. The new system not only provides the necessary alarm service for the elevator, it also added more capability for the entire building.

"It was a big job," Cook said. "Trying to fit an elevator in that space and relocating all the existing utilities because naturally everything was in

**Continued on Page 11**

*(Editor's note: This article was submitted by Diana DeMeyer, ACS)*

Leanne, a young mother with two children, ages 5 months and 3 years, is left alone in Germany while her husband is deployed to Iraq. Danette, a single foster mother from Cedar Rapids marries a service member in the Army Reserve stationed in Davenport whose unit gets deployed to Iraq. Karee, a young mother of a one year old, whose husband is stationed on Rock Island Arsenal is deployed to Kuwait. Besides having military spouses who are deployed to SWA, what do all of these military spouses have in common? Their common thread is the Garrison's Families First Family Support Program.

Families First provides the support, information, friendship, and regular home visits to these young mothers who are dealing with the stress of parenting alone. Families First is a contracted service of the Family Advocacy Program in Army Community Service. It provides support and assistance to military families with children ages 5 and below in the Quad Cities and surrounding area.

Soon after her husband was deployed, Leanne moved back to Silvis to get support from her family and to better deal with the uncertainty of her husband and father of her children going off to war. Leanne and her two young sons live with her parents and look forward to her visit from the Families First Home Visitor and Parent

## Family First Program provides support, friendship

Educator, Jill Carr. Jill, herself a mother of two, is also a registered nurse and trained parent educator who is very familiar with dealing with family separation. Jill's husband, Army Maj. Jay Carr, returned last May from a year long assignment to Saudi Arabia and is again currently deployed to Iraq. Leanne says, "The boys look forward to the home visits. As for me, it is certainly nice to visit with someone who knows what I am going through." With Jill's help, support and working through the Parents as Teachers parenting education curriculum, Leanne adds, "It helps me understand my boys, and their behavior is easier to deal with."

Danette was a new resident of the Quad Cities when she married Sgt. 1st Class Brian Lemkee. Soon after marrying Brian he was deployed to Iraq which was his second extended tour of duty overseas within three years. Danette was left alone with foster son, Keegan. Danette and Brian, being the caring, and giving foster parents that they are, had decided to adopt Keegan and the adoption was finalized during Brian's deployment. Danette learned about the Families First programs and requested home visits soon after moving onto the Arsenal. Danette says,

"The home visits were my sanity. Just having some adult contact and someone to talk to helped me make it through those lonely days." Danette also participated in the Discovery Time Playgroup and the Strolling Moms program.

The playgroup is another of the Families First services providing parents and children an opportunity to meet other military families, to make new friends, and for children to play in a safe and controlled environment. Danette shared that the connections she made during the playgroup was especially helpful since she was a new resident on the Arsenal. "I would meet with the other moms and we would go walking and strolling with the kids and it was great getting out of the house. It helped make time go faster."

Karee, whose husband is currently in Kuwait, is very grateful for all the Families First programs. She shared how she feels participating in the playgroup saying,

"Playgroup is as much my time to interact with the other moms and as it is for Grant to play."

Karee also participates in the Home Visitation Program as well and feels the Parents as Teachers curriculum that the parent educators use is just great.

"I learned about baby

sign language from my home visitor and I have been using it since Grant was eight months old."

Karee also attends the monthly Waiting Families Meeting which is also organized by ACS. "Learning about the themed care packages was great. I was also able to take advantage of the video teleconferencing offered in ACS and that is how my husband learned he was going to be a father again!"

One of the most important services that the Families First program does is help refer families to military and community agencies.

Many of the young military families who are new to the area and unfamiliar with the community would never utilize the various services that are available to them unless they learn about them from the Families First Home Visitor. Jan Saito, the Families First Program Manager says,

"There are excellent programs out there such as WIC, Head Start, and various early childhood educational programs that the families we work with have no idea are available to them. We make sure to inform parents about the wonderful military programs such as Military One Source, the Family Member Employment Readiness programs, Army Emergency Relief, Child and Youth Services, Outdoor Recreation, Armed Forces Vacation Club, and more."

***(For more information about these and other programs, call ACS at 782-0828.)***



## AER: 'One Nation, One Army, One Organization'

**By Desiree Bobie**  
**MWR**

It's that time of year again. The Army Emergency Relief campaign has begun! This year's theme "One Nation, One Army, One Organization" focuses on the current Army strategic theme of one Army (Active, Guard and Reserve) serving a nation at war. AER allows the Army community to remain confident and self-reliant during times of financial need. Last year alone, 50,000 Soldiers benefited.

During a crisis, Army Soldiers and their families often suffer severe personal and financial hardships. Hardships have increased with the ongoing war in Iraq. The deployment of Army forces to the Middle East has proved a new need for Army Emergency Relief assistance as family financial situations are challenged due to increased expenses, lower incomes, and other family adjustments.

AER is a private, nonprofit organization incorporated in 1942 by the Secretary of War and the Army Chief of Staff. AER's sole mission is to help soldiers and their dependents. In partnership with the Department of the Army, AER administers funds that provide financial assistance to Army Soldiers and their families. Assistance is available to all active duty Soldiers and Reserve Component Soldiers ordered to active duty for more than 30 consecutive days.

AER does not receive any appropriated or non-appropriated government money. Funding is through voluntary contributions from active and retired Soldiers as well as civilians. Repayment of AER loans is interest-free. Additional income is from investment and unsolicited contributions.

AER provides interest-free loans or grants (an outright gift of funds) to Soldiers and families in need. If

repayment of a loan will cause undue hardship a grant is given. A combination of a loan and a grant is another option available.

AER provides assistance with essentials like utilities, food and rent, to scholarships for undergraduate-level education – AER is the only organization that exists for the sole purpose of helping the army take care of its own. AER does NOT finance nonessentials, vacations, pay fines or legal expenses, assist with purchasing a home or making improvements, purchasing a vehicle or cover bad checks or pay credit card bills.

Rock Island Arsenal will conduct their annual campaign April 1 through May 1. Donations are accepted during this time and are 100 percent tax deductible. Anyone interested can contact Penny Dixon, Army Community Service and Army Emergency Relief Officer, at (309) 782-0828 or Desirée Bobie, at (309)782-3340.

## Women's History

### Navy's first female admiral coined 'computer bug' phrase

**by Mary Mayland**  
**Special Emphasis Program**

Have you ever wondered where the term "computer bug" came from? We hear the term when Microsoft announces they have software to fix computer bugs, or problems, found in their software. Programmers sometimes refer to "debugging" their program. Would you be surprised to hear both phrases are credited to a person who overcame obstacles to join the U.S. Naval Reserve, age obstacles to stay in the Navy who went on to become the first female Rear Admiral in the Navy and had an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer ship named after her?

She was born in New York City on December 9, 1906. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Vassar in 1928 with a Bachelor Degree in Mathematics and Physics. At the age of 23 she earned her Master's Degree in

Mathematics from Yale and married Vincent Hopper. She taught mathematics at Vassar while she earned her Ph.D. from Yale.

She wanted to join the service when World War II started, but at the age of 34 and weighing only 105 pounds, she was considered underweight for the military. She persisted until she was able to obtain a waiver for the weight requirement and joined the U.S. Naval Reserve in December 1943.

During her first years in the Navy she became the third computer programmer of the Mark I, the world's first large-scale automatically sequenced digital computer. She also worked with the Mark II computer, which was very large, compared to computers of today. The Mark II computer filled many rooms with its large electronic tubes (transistor were not invented back then). Windows

were left open to help keep the air circulating and reduce heat generated by the computer. One day a moth flew through an open window and into one of Mark II's relays, temporarily shutting down the system. She coined the term "computer bug" when she discovered the bug that had caused the electrical short.

Who is this person? She is Rear Admiral Dr. Grace Murray Hopper.

In her lifetime, Grace Murray Hopper received many awards and commendations for her accomplishments for being one of the first female pioneers in the computer field. In 1969, she was awarded the first ever Computer Science Man-of-the-Year Award from the Data Processing Management Association. In 1971, the Sperry Corporation initiated an annual award in her name to honor young

**Continued on Page 11**

# Island employees: MWR services are for you, use them

**By Rachel Purvis**  
**Marketing Director for Morale,**  
**Welfare and Recreation**  
**Business Programs**

Working at the Rock Island Arsenal means being part of a community and in that vein, it is the responsibility of the U.S. Army Garrison—Rock Island Arsenal, to provide employees of the Island with programs that make working here more enjoyable.

One of the ways this is accomplished is through the Morale, Welfare and Recreation program. MWR is a quality of life program dedicated to improving productivity, mental and physical well-being, personal growth, positive values and family support. Many have heard of MWR and the extensive services provided but some may not realize that almost every employee and their family are eligible to use these services.

“It doesn’t matter if you are a contractor, civilian, Guardsman, Soldier, Reservist or retiree,” said

Diane Francque, Chief of MWR business programs. “If you work on or have an association with the Island, you can use almost any of our services and most members of your family can too.”

Francque added that family members who are authorized to use MWR programs include spouses, children under the age of 21 and unmarried children between the ages of 21 and 23 who are enrolled full-time in an institution for higher learning.

“As I travel around through different organizations on this Island, I have heard from more than one employee who didn’t realize they can use MWR programs,” said Alan Wilson, Garrison Manager. “Some believe the programs are for Soldiers only. I think it is important for every employee, civilian or contractor, to know what MWR provides and that they are eligible for these programs.”

MWR programs cover a breadth of topics. MWR facilities include: the Arsenal Club, the Fitness Center,



Outdoor Recreation, the Post Restaurant and Cafeterias, Cannon Flats Driving Range, Information, Tickets and Registration; and the Auto Craft Shop, to name a few.

MWR encompasses current events, bus trips, discounted travel and hotels, fitness classes and leagues, outdoor recreation checkout equipment, special event equipment, catering services and banquet facilities, childcare, relocation support, auto care, continuing education and much more.

For more information about MWR and its programs, visit the MWR web site at [www.ria.mwr.com](http://www.ria.mwr.com) or call 782-4420.

*(Editor's note: Allen Marshall contributed to this article)*

## Brig. Gen. Johnson *continued from Page 2*

Rock Island Arsenal. Tim Bolyard remains the Deputy Commander of the JMTC. Mr. Alan Wilson, former Deputy Commander of Rock Island Arsenal, is the Garrison Manager.

However, the overall installation still requires an “Installation Commander” to be the senior Army officer in charge of the overall installation. As with other traditional Army organizations, this responsibility now belongs to the “senior mission commander.” As the Commanding General of the Army Field Support Command, I am the senior mission commander and thus I serve as the Installation Commander.

While Mr. Wilson has the authority and responsibility as the Garrison Manager to lead the day-to-day garrison operations, I have the overall responsibility to act as the principal customer advocate to the Garrison Manager, serve as the senior Army spokesperson to the surrounding community, oversee and prioritize the implementation of force protection, and approve installation-level policies for Soldiers in accordance with respective Army regulations.

I am committed to having the best quality of life that

we can have here on Arsenal Island and if you have suggestions on how to improve, or concerns about installation operations, I would ask that you direct them to Mr. Wilson and his garrison staff.

So as you may have already concluded, “the arsenal” no longer exists in the traditional sense of the last 142 years. The manufacturing and logistics missions commonly referred to as the arsenal, is now a tenant mission of its own. The installation is operated as a garrison. Each of us, garrison and tenant employees alike are citizens of this total installation family. I cherish my role as your installation leader.

I want each of you – military, civilians, contractors and all of your families to know how proud I am of what you do every day. Every one of you provides indispensable support to America’s Soldiers in their fight of terrorism worldwide. We are all a part of the same team. Together we help assure America is the land of the free and the home of the brave. I am honored to be your Installation Commander.

May God continue to bless America.

## RIA-JMTC workload heavy, workforce meeting requirements

**W**orkload continues to be heavy in the JMTC and I want to once again thank everyone for their support and dedication to our warfighters. You demonstrate your commitment every day by all of your hard work. I truly appreciate the sacrifices you are making since the change to the straight 8 hours work schedule and giving up your regular days off (RDOs). I know we have also asked many of you to delay taking your annual leave. Your sacrifices are allowing us to meet our mission requirements, and this is indeed making a difference in saving Soldiers lives and waging the Global War on Terrorism.

We have other good news in the JMTC as well. On April 15 we will graduate our first Apprenticeship Class since 1995. This is definitely a step in the right direction to revitalize our workforce with qualified personnel. You will be hearing more about

the graduation ceremony through your chain of command.

As you know from my previous columns, Safety is one of my primary areas of emphasis. It has come to my attention recently that we have a problem with speeding in our parking lots.

As you know we have people coming in and out of our buildings at all hours of the day and night. Their safety is critical. Please adhere to the 15 mph speed limit in our parking lots and 25 mph all over the installation. Also, remember to always wear your seatbelts. Your safety and that of your fellow employees is of the utmost importance!

I also want to thank everyone who worked so hard during our ISO audit and who are now working on the corrective actions. This is a very successful effort being led by our Quality Systems and Audit Office. Receiving this certification is critical for our future. It will once again



**Col. Bruce Elliott**  
**Commander, RIA-JMTC**

emphasize to our customers and the world that we are indeed a world class organization and it will help bring in more workload. So thanks again to everyone working on this and keep up the great work! Giving our customers what they want, built to their quality expectations, on time and at cost what we at the JMTC are all about; because, bottom line, it is all for our ultimate customers, our Soldiers!

## Women's history *(continued from Page 9)*

computer professionals for their significant contributions to computer science. In 1973, she became the first person from the United States and the first woman of any nationality to be made a Distinguished Fellow of the British Computer Society.

She never let her age be a barrier. In 1966, the Navy asked her to retire because of her age, 60. Seven months after her retirement, Norman Ream, Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Navy, had her recalled to active duty. Her orders stated her services would be needed indefinitely. She was promoted to the rank of Commodore in 1983 by a special Presidential appointment. In 1984 she became one of the first women to be elevated to the rank of Rear Admiral. When she retired a second time from the Navy, at the age of 80, she was the oldest active duty officer at the time. She spent the remainder of her life as a senior consultant to Digital Equipment Corporation. She died January 1, 1992 and was buried with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery.

When Rear Admiral Dr. Grace Murray Hopper died, the world lost an inspiration to women and scientists everywhere. Her outstanding contributions to computer science benefited academia, industry, and the military. Her early recognition of the potential for commercial applications of computers, and her leadership and perseverance in making this vision a reality, paved the way for modern data processing.

*(Editor's note: this article was prepared and submitted by the U.S. Army Garrison--Rock Island Arsenal Equal Employment Opportunity Office)*

## Elevator

*(continued from Page 7)*

the way. Preparing the shaft was probably the hardest part of the job. And couple that with complying with code requirements...it took a lot of coordination."

The new elevator is designed for both passenger and freight. It can accommodate up to 7,000 pounds. The old elevator, which had been installed in 1956, was for designed for freight. "This is much better for everybody," Cook said.

Jerry Sechser, Director of Public Works, added "Most importantly, this project came in on time and on budget and that was due to the hard work of everyone involved."



## Know what to do in case of severe weather

Spring and Summer bring severe weather to the Quad City area, to include thunderstorms and tornadoes. Employees at Rock Island Arsenal should know the notification procedures and what to do in case of a severe storm.

First, everyone should know the definitions. A Thunderstorm Watch is announced when conditions are favorable to produce a thunderstorm. A Thunderstorm warning is signaled when a storm has developed. The same is true for Tornado watches and warnings.

The US. Army Garrison--Rock Island Arsenal Police Department is responsible for notifying Island employees when a Warning has been issued. The police receive the information from the National Weather Service.

When the police have received the warning, they activate an alert siren, send out an Island-wide emergency e-mail message and they dispatch vehicles to remote places like fishing and picnic areas to notify anyone who may be there. The warning siren has a three to five minute blast.

When the warning siren goes off, all employees should take cover, stay in buildings and seek protection.

## BRAC update...

DoD is scheduled to send their proposed list of military bases/organizations to be closed and/or realigned to the Base Realignment and Closure Commission not later than May 16. All military installations within the Department of Defense are currently being evaluated.

When the official list is released, you will receive information through your chain of command, from the Garrison Public Affairs office and, no doubt, the media.

The release of the DoD list is just another step in the process. The BRAC Commission will meet and hold hearings over the summer, evaluate the list, finalize it and send it to the President by September 8. The President has until Sept. 23 to approve or disapprove the entire list. He cannot make any changes to it. If he approves it, it goes into effect and will be implemented. If he disapproves it, the list goes back to the BRAC Commission who then has until Oct. 20 to revise it and send it back to the President. The President then has until Nov. 7 to approve or disapprove it.

More information on BRAC can be found on the RIA intranet under "Information" and then "BRAC Information."

## Good ideas can be rewarded through ASP

April is the Island's Army Suggestion Program "Good Ideas Month" and is a great month to submit a suggestion. Normally, when a suggestion is submitted and accepted into the program (because of a clearly stated problem, solution and benefit), the submitter receives a gift.

During the month of April, a bonus gift will also be awarded to the suggestion submitter.

In FY 2004, the Department of the Army introduced a web based database for submitting ideas into the ASP; the internet address is:

<https://armysuggestions.army.mil>.

When using the link, you will be prompted for your Army Knowledge On-line (AKO) login ID and password to access the site.

This database is available for use by any U.S. Army military or civilian employee or their dependents, who have a valid AKO account. If you do not have an AKO account or you need to request a new login or password, go to the AKO website:

[https://www.us.army.mil/portal/portal\\_home.jhtml](https://www.us.army.mil/portal/portal_home.jhtml), under either "Register for AKO" or "Lost Password".

What is a suggestion? It's an employee, group or team idea that is processed through the ASP that describes ways to do a job better, faster, safer and/or cheaper by:

- \* Improving the way we do things, the materials we use: i.e. improving productivity;
- \* Improving end products;
- \* Improving morale or working conditions.

The following topics are not eligible for consideration by the ASP:

- \* Housekeeping practices;
- \* Personal comfort;
- \* Minor Safety issues (major changes are accepted);
- \* Complaints about Government policy and practices;
- \* Recommending that a study be conducted;
- \* Minor changes to publications/forms (major changes are accepted).

When submitting a suggestion,

make sure to describe the problem completely and logically. Also describe your proposed solution fully and logically and describe the benefits in as much detail as possible.

Be sure to only describe a single, explicitly identified problem or topic and provide definitions for any technical terms and acronyms used.

When your suggestion is accepted into the program for consideration of implementation, you will receive a non-monetary gift (if submitted in April 2005, you will receive a bonus gift).

Proposals can produce tangible benefits (i.e. monetary savings), intangible savings (i.e. quality of life improvements), or both. Generally, cash awards are equal to 10 percent of the verified tangible benefits.

For an approved suggestion, you may receive up to \$25,000.

For more information, call your point of contact. TACOM-RI call 782-0856. HQ AFSC/JMC call 782-4587. RIA JMTTC, USAG-RIA and all other tenants call 782-0233.